

network, and numerous new and refurbished facilities.

Dr. Breiseth has been a tireless leader in all aspects of our community, including leadership positions with the Osterhout Library, the Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry, Leadership Wilkes-Barre, and the United Way of Wyoming Valley. He has also taken an active role on the Executive Committee of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities and chairs its Pennsylvania Independent Colleges and Universities Research Center.

Although I appreciate everything Chris Breiseth has contributed to the community of Northeastern Pennsylvania, I am most personally gratified by the countless hours he has spent as the Chairman of the Board of the Earth Conservancy. In early 1991, we first began talking about the possibility of creating a unique organization which could purchase nearly 17,000 acres of land from a bankrupt coal mining company. Located in the heart of Wyoming Valley, this land held the key to our region's future, even as it bore the scars of the past. We shared the dream of reclaiming this land for the good of the community, and Chris Breiseth devoted a great deal of his life to achieving this dream. We endured skepticism, obstructionism, and downright hostility from nearly every quarter, but we persevered. The Earth Conservancy is now an important asset for Northeastern Pennsylvania, performing extremely valuable work. I am very proud of the work the Earth Conservancy is doing, and I am deeply grateful to Chris Breiseth for his leadership in this challenging endeavor.

Chris is blessed with a wonderful wife, Jane, and three exceptional daughters, Abigail, Erika, and Lydia. The entire Breiseth family has contributed greatly to the Northeastern Pennsylvania community, and I am pleased they have made Wilkes-Barre their home.

Mr. Speaker, every Member of Congress should be as fortunate as I am to have a friend and colleague like Chris Breiseth. It is a pleasure to bring his accomplishments to the attention of my colleagues in the House.

#### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

#### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 1998*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I've come to the floor on many occasions to talk about women's issues—most of the time it involves the women of this country.

I've often said that there is much work to do on behalf of the women of this country. However, we have made much progress, that we should not take for granted, especially today as we commemorate "International Women's Day".

Fifty years ago in Paris Eleanor Roosevelt—working as the US representative to the UN Commission on Human Rights joined her fellow delegates in crafting the language of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. That document has set the standard for basic Human Rights for the last five decades. That declaration is what the world's courts and gov-

ernments look to to set policy regarding the human condition.

Unfortunately, some nations' governments do not include women in their definition of "human" because they are denied the basic rights that should be afforded any individual. There are women in some countries who are routinely beaten. They are sold to men as sex slaves. They are made prisoners of war where rape becomes a weapon.

It is these women who cannot speak out, that my colleagues and I are remembering today.

We speak for the millions of women in Africa who are subject to genital mutilation. We speak for the women in Mexico who are forced to take pregnancy tests and answer questions about their sexual habits as part of their job interviews. We speak for the women of Afghanistan who are not permitted to go to school or to enter the work force. They cannot leave their homes without being covered from head to toe. They are denied care in hospitals simply because of their gender. We speak for the tens of thousands of women in China who have been abducted or lured with promises of work or travel, then raped and beaten and forced into slavery. We speak out for the women in Peru where three cases of sexual violence occur every hour. We speak for these women because their voices deserve to be heard.

One voice which is being heard is that of First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. She has met with women from every corner of the world and heard their horrific stories. Fifty years after First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt was crafting the language of the Universal Declaration for Human Rights, the First Lady is taking up her cause.

At the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights the United States made its position clear with these words: "Violence and discrimination against women don't just victimize individuals they hold back whole societies, guaranteeing human rights is a moral imperative with respect to both women and men. It is also an investment in making whole nations stronger, more fair, and better."

However, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women has been bogged down in the Senate for 17 years. The United States must make its position on this issue clear.

Fifty years ago a first lady of the United States was able to help shape opinions about the rights of women in countries around the world. Now, the United States is obliged to do as much. It must join the other 161 nations in ratifying this convention, for the women of other countries and its own.

#### PORTUGUESE INSTRUCTIVE SOCIAL CLUB OF ELIZABETH 76TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 1998*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Portuguese Instructive Social Club of Elizabeth as they celebrate their 76th anniversary.

The club has demonstrated, time and again, its willingness to assist Elizabeth residents. The Club has been a vital supporter of the Amadue Correia school which currently has 300 students learning the Portuguese language, history, and culture. The club also established and supports the Dancas e Cantares Portugal (a Portuguese folk dancing group) which performs at various events throughout New Jersey and the New England area.

The Portuguese Instructive Social Club will celebrate its accomplishments and anniversary with a dinner-dance at the Portuguese-American Hall on March 14.

#### TRIBUTE TO CESARINA EARL

#### HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 1998*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce you to a remarkable individual, Ms. Cesarina Earl. On Saturday, March 14, Cesarina will be honored as a Woman of Distinction by the Girl Scouts of America. This award is presented to women who have provided a positive role model for young women.

I am proud to say that Cesarina was born and bred in the Eighth Congressional District of New Jersey. A graduate of Eastside High School in Paterson, New Jersey, she went on to graduate from Seton Hall University with a BA in History in August of 1965. Eager to pursue a career as a school librarian, Cesarina returned to school to earn her New Jersey State library science credentials, attending both Caldwell College and Rutgers University.

Cesarina has put her certification as a New Jersey Librarian/Education Media Specialist and a New Jersey Professional Librarian to excellent use. Possessing a keen interest in our United States, she has served as a school librarian from New York to California. Returning to Paterson, she was employed for twelve years in the Paterson Free Public Library System. From there, she moved on to serve as a school librarian/media specialist at North Arlington High School. Most recently, she has been hired by the Little Ferry Board of Education to work with children grades K-8.

In addition to her impressive professional career, Cesarina has been extremely active in the Italian-American community in the Greater New York Area. Accolades are nothing new to Cesarina. She has been honored by many Italian-American groups for her active role in that dynamic community. The proud mother of two grown children, she publishes a weekly newspaper, *The Italian Voice*, with her son Douglas. In addition to an impressive array of speaking engagements, she also travels extensively, speaking fluent Spanish and Italian.

Needless to say, Cesarina continues to enjoy her involvement with the Girl Scouts of America. Her leadership and dedication to this important young women's association led to the receipt of this prestigious award.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that you join me, our colleagues, Cesarina's family and friends, and the Girl Scouts of America as they honor her as a Distinguished Woman in the Girl Scout World of People.